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The field of pharmacology research was receiving the main emphasis prior to World War II. Hungary had excellent pharmaceutical manufacturing houses such as Wander, Chinoin, and Richter, all of which had well equipped laboratories. Their competitive positions kept research work in the fore. In addition, the universities of Hungary, particularly those of Budapest and Pecs, had excellent pharmacology departments.

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Chinoin was doing research work immediately prior to World War II with sulfa-thiazole and ultra-septyls. Richter was doing work with hormones. At University of Pecs, Dr. (fau) Issekutz was a prominent professor in the pharmacology department.

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Some physiology research was being done at either the University of Debrecen or Szeged by Dr. (fau) Verzar in 1939.

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Dr. Alexander Lang, of University of Budapest, did research work in industrial physiology, and also did clinical work on the side at National Health Insurance Laboratory (OTE). If alive, he would now be about 55 years of age.

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As of 1946 there was no medical research being done whatsoever. Basic medicaments were all but impossible to obtain and research work was secondary. In addition, facilities were damaged from wartime bombardment, and money for conducting research work was lacking.

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The Ministry of Interior handled such details, at least until 1946. All other interested government ministries funnelled requests and projects through the Ministry of Interior.

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As mentioned before, the major pharmaceutical houses such as Chinoin, Wander, and Richter had their own research laboratories.

A hygienic institute was located in Budapest which did bacteriological work on communicable diseases and food pollution. The Rockefeller Foundation provided funds in the 1930's for various Hungarian medical research projects. Several small laboratories were located in Health Service Institute (Kozegeszseg ugyi Intezeti), Gyali Ut, Budapest 9.

Universities of Budapest, Pecs, Debrecen and Szeged all had excellent laboratory facilities suitable for medical research. Research projects were financed by the university unless a contract for the work was held with the Ministry of Interior, in which case the government would finance the activity.

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These laboratories all had electron microscopes, ultracentrifuges, Warburg manometers, freeze-drying equipment, and deep-culture vats.

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Most equipment was of Hungarian manufacture. German equipment supplemented that already available.

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During the 1930's and up to the beginning of World War II many young physicians took part-time jobs as laboratory technicians in order to supplement their income. Training of professional laboratory technicians was limited. The Health Service Institute trained some students.

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Library facilities both private and public were excellent and quite well stocked with an international selection. A limited amount of abstracting into Hungarian was done on foreign articles. Most physicians, and the educated class spoke and read German, and read French and English. All major institutions had their own library as did many of the smaller ones.

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Medical student research work was on a voluntary basis. A student was free to make his own arrangements with a professor or post graduate student who was doing research work of interest to the student.

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About 90% of all post graduate research in the medical field was done at a university. A few fellowships and government stipends were available, paying about 100-120 pengo per month. In numerous cases, a private employer would continue the salary of an employee doing post graduate work.

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